

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on November 21, 2006, claims 1-12 have been allowed and claims 13 and 15 objected to but otherwise indicated to be allowable. These objections have been addressed herein as suggested in the Office Action with the result that these claims are believed to be allowable.

Claims 16-35 have been rejected as anticipated or obvious over Sohn et al., Abstract of Papers, 221st ACS National Meeting, San Diego, CA April 1-5, 2001 INOR-589 (herein “the Sohn Abstract”). It is noted that in a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith, “Detection of TNT and Picric Acid on Surfaces and in Seawater by Using Photoluminescent Polysiloles,” by Sohn, Calhoun, Sailor and Trogler, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 40, No 11 (2001) that corresponds to this abstract is being disclosed (referred to herein as “the Sohn Paper”). Claims 16-35 have been amended or cancelled above and in their current form are allowable over the Sohn Abstract, the Sohn Paper, and other prior art references.

Claim 16 as amended requires the metallole polymer or copolymer to contain a metalloid-metalloid backbone that includes Ge. This is not disclosed or suggested by the Sohn Abstract, the Sohn Paper, or any other cited reference. Other amendments have been made to claim 16 to correct typographical errors. Claims 18-29 depend from claim 16 and are allowable for the same reasons as are that claim. Some of these claims are allowable on an independent basis as well. Claim 19, for example, recites that the polymer or copolymer of claim 16 be selected from the group of Ge-Ge and Si-Ge.

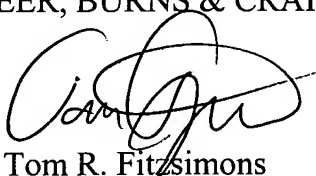
Independent claim 30 has been amended to recite that the metallole polymer or copolymer include Ge. Independent claim 32 has been amended to recite that the metallole polymer or copolymer include Ge. These limitations are not disclosed or suggested by the Sohn Abstract, the Sohn Paper, or any other cited reference. Several other claims, including claim 1, have been amended to address informalities. Claims 17 and 35 have been cancelled.

Claims 16-24 and 27-35 have also been provisionally rejected based on double patenting over co-pending application 10/244,053. It is believed that this rejection is moot given the above amendments. Further, because this rejection is provisional, it may be addressed in a subsequent submission if necessary.

It is believed that all matters raised in the November 21 Office Action have been addressed herein, and that all claims are allowable in their present form. Timely consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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